

App. No. 10/671,244

Amendment under 37 CFR §1.111

REMARKS

Claims 2-12, 14-24, and 26-35 remain pending in the application. Claims 3, 10, 11, 15, 22, 23, 27, 34, and 35 are independent claims. Claims 1, 13, and 25 have been cancelled, and Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17-19, 21-24, 26, 27, 29-31, and 33-35 have been amended in response to Examiner rejections and objections. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge acceptance of the formal drawings filed on 09/24/2003.

Examiner has objected to Claims 3, 4, 10, 11, 15, 16, 22, 23, 27, 28, 34, and 35 as being dependent on a rejected base claim. The objection is obviated, since each of Claims 3, 10, 11, 15, 22, 23, 27, 34, and 35 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

Claims 3, 10, and 11 have each been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of original base Claim 1. Claim 4 is dependent on Claim 3. Claims 15, 22, and 23 have each been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of original base Claim 13. Claim 16 is dependent on Claim 15. Claims 27, 34, and 35 have each been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of original base Claim 25. Claim 28 is dependent on Claim 27.

Examiner has rejected Claims 1-2, 5-9, 12-14, 17-21, 24-26, and 29-33 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Bartlett (US5646444).

The rejection is overcome, since Claims 1, 13, and 25 have been cancelled, and since it is believed that Claims 2, 5-9, 12, 14, 17-21, 24, 26, and 29-33, as amended, patentably distinguish over Bartlett.

Claims 2 and 5-9 have been amended to be dependent on amended independent Claim 3. Claim 12 has been amended to be dependent on amended independent Claim 11. Claims 14 and 17-21 have been amended to be dependent on amended independent Claim 15. Claim 24 has been amended to be dependent on amended independent Claim 23. Claims 26 and 29-33 have been amended to be dependent on amended independent Claim 27.

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In view of the above, it is submitted that Claims 2-12, 14-24, and 26-35 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is respectfully requested. Allowance of Claims 2-12, 14-24, and 26-35 at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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